



25X1

---

---

**Memorandum for: RECORD**

The attached was prepared by

25X1

Iberia-Aegean Branch, EURA/WE for

25X1

the DDI in response to his query about the possible Turkish reaction to a meeting between the President and the Armenian Apostolic leader Karekin II.

**Distribution:**

Orig - DDI

1 - OD/EURA

1 - C/WE

2 - EURA Production

4 - OCO/IDCD/CB

1 - IA Branch File

1 -

25X1



---

---

**E U R A**

**Office of European Analysis**

EUR M 83-10155

**Memorandum for: DDI**

The attached memorandum is our response to your query about the possible Turkish reaction to a meeting between the President and the Armenian Catholicos Karekin II. It has been coordinated with OGI/IIC/TG.

Director  
European Analysis

25X1



**E U R A**

**Office of European Analysis**

27 May 1983

## MEMORANDUM

Turkish Reaction to a meeting between the President and Armenian Apostolic Archbishop Karekin II

1. The Turkish government probably would not consider a meeting between the President and Archbishop Karekin to be particularly significant. Ankara has shown little interest in past meetings between Armenian church leaders and US officials, not even those involving the Patriarch of the Armenian Orthodox Church, who lives in Istanbul. We believe that the Turkish leadership historically has differentiated between Armenian religious leaders -- who have traditionally condemned anti-Turkish Armenian terrorism -- and other Armenian leaders, many of whom have taken ambiguous positions on the terrorists' actions. The Turks probably know that the Archbishop -- who resides in Beirut -- is a strong advocate of Lebanese unity and independence. They are likely to assume that his meeting with the President would focus on these issues.

2. The Turks are, however, unusually sensitive now about the Armenian problem. Armenian terrorists have assassinated more than 25 Turkish diplomats in recent years.

25X1  
25X1

The Armenian question has, moreover, become a factor in the Cyprus dispute. Ankara claims that the Greek Cypriots are harboring Armenian terrorists, while Athens and Nicosia heatedly deny the charge. All this suggests a slight possibility that the Turks might misconstrue the President's meeting with Karekin II. If the Turks did take the visit as an affront, they would be unlikely to do more than express their concern through diplomatic channels.

25X1

EUR M83-10155

25X1

SECRET